

REMARKS

Claim 14 is amended; claims 2 and 23-101 are canceled; and claims 1 and 3-22 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 3-13 are allowed. Applicant notes that the Examiner indicates that claims 1-13 are allowed, and further notes that claim 2 was previously canceled from the application. Accordingly, it appears that the Examiner intended to indicate that claims 1 and 3-13 were allowed.

Claims 14-22 stand rejected over Goth, Chen and Wolf in various combinations. Applicant has amended claim 14, from which claims 15-22 depend, and believes that such amendments place claims 14-22 in condition for allowance.

Amended claim 14 recites a method of forming a semiconductor structure in which a trench is provided within a semiconductor material, with such trench extending through an upper surface of the semiconductor material; a first electrically insulative material is formed within a bottom portion of the trench to partially fill the trench, with the partially-filled trench having a sidewall comprising the semiconductor material; the semiconductor material of the sidewall is incorporated into a silicide, with such silicide not extending over the upper surface of the semiconductor material; and the trench is filled with a second electrically insulative material to cover the silicide. Support for the amendments to claim 14 can be found at figure 9 of the originally-filed application where silicide lines 26, 28, 30 and 32 are shown to be along sidewalls of trenches, and not over an upper surface of semiconductor material (14 and 16) containing the trenches.

The Examiner cites Goth and Chen for showing silicide formed within trenches. Applicant notes, however, that both Goth and Chen show the silicide materials disclosed therein as being over upper surfaces of semiconductor material containing the trenches, and that neither of the references teaches that the silicide materials can be formed to be only along sidewalls of the trenches and not over upper surfaces of the semiconductor material containing the trenches. For at least this reason, amended claim 14 is allowable over the cited references, and applicant therefore requests formal allowance of amended claim 14 in the Examiner's next action. Claims 15-22 are allowable for at least the reason that such claims depend from amended claim 14.

Claims 1 and 2-13 are allowed, and claims 14-22 are allowable for the reasons discussed above. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner's next action be a Notice of Allowance formally allowing all of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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